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Changes noted in China

By Robert Press
Staff correspondent of
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Fewer Mao buttons, more cars, trucks, and bicycles; more and better factory machinery and greater grain production.

These are some of the changes in the People's Republic of China since President Ford made his first visit there in 1972. They are noted by two Americans who revisited China recently.

They report that the red book of quotations by Chairman Mao, once seen in so many hands throughout the country, now is seen much less often than a book of quotes by Marx, Engels, and Lenin, used in a "study" under way across China today on the principles of communism.

A more critical observation of changes in China comes from U.S. envoy George Bush, who recently told CBS News that although China's progress holds "a lesson even for a people as free as we [Americans] are, China has paid a heavy price in the form of "regimentation in its totality."

With few and short-lived exceptions, China under Chairman Mao has not welcomed strong criticism from its people of government policies.

One early policy which at first met some resistance was the collectivization of agriculture. Today the transformation from individually owned farms to collect farming is "almost universal" in China, said Mr. Hinton.

Currently the Chinese are promoting the mechanization of agriculture by 1980. But Mr. Hinton is skeptical that goal will be met.

On other than rice farms, the Chinese often plant more than one kind of crop at a time and "there's no machinery in the world that will handle that," said Mr. Hinton in a telephone interview from his home in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania.

He visited China twice, in 1937 and 1945, and worked there from 1947 to 1953, primarily as a tractor maintenance instructor, first for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, then for the Chinese Government. He returned in 1971 for seven months before his latest visit Sept. 26 through Oct. 20 as Chairman of the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association.

The delegation of 10 Americans met for two hours with Deputy Prime Minister Teng Hsiao-ping, the man who hosted President Ford on his recent trip.